

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 44-47 are pending in the application, with claim 44 being the sole independent claim. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13, 35-37, 39-43 and 49 are sought to be canceled.

According to the Office Action, claims 44-47 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." (Office Action, page 2). Accordingly, claim 44 has been re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 39 and 42. Support for the amendment to claim 44 can therefore be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally presented. The amendment to claim 44, and the cancellation of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13, 35-37, 39-43 and 49, are believed to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments after final Office Action be entered and considered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b).

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 44-47 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. (Office Action, page 2). According to the Examiner, these claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." (Office Action, page 2). As noted above, claim 44 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 39 and 42. Thus, the objection to claims 44-47 has been fully accommodated and should be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing new matter. (Office Action, pages 2-3). Solely to expedite the allowance of the application, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-13 and 35-37 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is moot.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 35-37, 39-43 and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO94/23756. (Office Action, page 4). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth in the previous replies. (*See, e.g.*, Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed on January 4, 2006, pages 15-17). Nonetheless, solely to expedite allowance of this application, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 35-37, 39-43 and 49 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is moot.

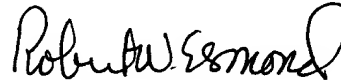
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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